

Attachment 5

September 21, 1999

Open Letter to Cal-Fed Hearing of September 22, 1999 in Tracy, California

From: Bobbie Landers, representing Old River Homeowners Association

Thank you for your time for our presentation.

We have brought pictures with us today to illustrate the deteriorating condition of Old River as a direct result of the temporary dams that have been installed. We note that these dams continue to appear on the Cal Fed plans for the future of the Delta.

We wish to thank the Department who finally agrees with our appellation of these rock dams as "DAMS". We note for you that the large warning sign situated on the top of the dam denotes that this is a "Dam"...not a "barrier" as the reports often refer to these rock piles. Please note the sign in our pictures. And, again, we thank you for agreeing that this is indeed a "Dam". We wish all the environmental rules that apply to dams be applied to this barrier project in the Cal Fed report.

The silting that has resulted from the installation of these dams seven years ago has reached an intolerable level for the homeowners along Kelso Road, Hammer, Middleton and Little Hawaii Islands and the homeowners along the approach to Del's Marina. Since many of us had conversations with the teams that were sent to measure the depths of waters in our area, we all know how these so-called "depths" have decreased over the seven year period of the dams installations. No boats can access the area between Middleton & Little Hawaii islands at low tide. This is now a marshland. We used to be able to dive into 15 feet of water in front of my dock at 15541 Kelso Road. That depth was just measured by your team at eight feet!

All the Old River Homeowners at home and in this room have the same story to tell you! We can not allow a permanent facility to be installed until you have not only cleaned up the problems caused by the temporary facilities but offered us a long term solution if, indeed, you plan to go ahead with a plan to build permanent dams.

We have invited DWR, Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers to make presentations at our home to the other homeowners. Still our silting situation gets worse every year. We have tried to be patient and cooperative. Now, what are we to do? We need answers, and we need action now.

We believe that immediate action must be taken to remove the dams at once and not to replace them until the damage is rectified and a long-term solution is presented to the homeowners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bobbie Landers". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Bobbie Landers
Old River Homeowners Association